Wondering where OPAL went? Stop by the new temporary location on the third floor of Robinson Hall and say hello to your OPAL advisors!

Looking ahead this week to the 4th Annual Student Forum on Global Learning: The Art of Non-Conformity Making the World Better

The 4th Annual Student Forum on Global Learning will take place on January 21, 2013 and is presented as part of Dartmouth’s celebration of Martin Luther King Day. Among the speakers include President Carol Folt, photographer James Nachtwey ’70, Associate Dean of Faculty for International & Interdisciplinary Studies, Lynn Higgins and Director of the Office of Pluralism and Leadership, Alysson Satterlund. The Forum will feature over 40 students sharing their global experiences through presentations and panels throughout the day.

The Forum is part of the MLK Day celebrations and is a collaborative effort by The Dickey Center, Institutional Diversity & Equity, Tucker Foundation, Rockefeller Center, Office of Undergraduate Advising & Research, Off-Campus Programs, Office of Pluralism & Leadership, Office of the Provost, Rassias Center, Dean of the College Division, and Dartmouth College-American University of Kuwait Program.

INTERESTED? Find out more at http://www.dartmouth.edu/global/studentforum/ and watch the video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI6lw6atQ5c
Introducing Dr. Reese Kelly, the new LGBTQIA Assistant Dean and Advisor

OPAL is pleased to share that Dr. Reese Kelly will begin working as the new LGBTQIA Assistant Dean and Advisor on January 21, 2013. Reese holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University at Albany, State University of New York and was a recipient of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation’s Women’s and Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship for his research on transgender identity management.

Reese joins us from Middlebury College where he held a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Women’s & Gender Studies. While there, he developed and taught courses on gender, feminist research methods, and transgender histories, identities, and politics, with a particular focus on race, class, nationality, and sexual inequality and served as a campus-wide resource on transgender inclusion and LGBTQ issues. He also assisted in the advancement of Middlebury’s Queer Studies House and was an advisor to LGBTQA students and organizations. Additionally, Reese brings assessment, grant-writing, social networking, and research experience from his work at the University of Vermont, the University at Albany, and the University of Michigan Ann Arbor.

When asked what he is most excited about in regards to joining us at Dartmouth, Reese responded “It is hard to answer that question since there are many things that I am excited about in my new role, but for now I will be brief.

“First and foremost, I am thrilled to be working with Dartmouth students and the fantastic staff in OPAL! Dartmouth College is an exceptional institution and I am very grateful to be using my experience and expertise to facilitate the development of socially-conscious student leaders and serve as a resource to the community. As part of this, I am very much looking forward to playing a role in the development and implementation of the LGBT Affinity House.”

Reese will be accompanying the Dartmouth student contingent to the Creating Change conference in Atlanta, GA soon after his arrival (January 23rd through January 28, 2013) and is eager to meet students, alums and new colleagues.

Please join us in welcoming Reese to Dartmouth.
International Students enjoy a variety of events over interim

Over winter break, International Interim Interns Mahnum Shahzad ’15 and Agon Kastrati ’16 organized a wide variety of activities for students spending winter break on campus. These activities ranged from on lunches sponsored by Deans Office and Dartmouth Computing Services and movie nights to a service trip into Boston.

Students took to the outdoors and learned to ski by the golf course, with trainers available for anyone who felt uncomfortable skiing (pictured top left). Brian Kuntz and Michael Silverman from the Outdoor Programs Office organized a luncheon - Working With Winter - where they discussed how to dress, how to take care of yourself during this cold, usually snowy season. They also shared ideas and thoughts on how to make the most of winter.

One very original event included a joint celebration of Tanzanian’s Independence Day and Kenyan Independence Day. The event featured Tanzanian/East African food as well as music and good company. A few students also embarked on a service trip to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless where they sorted winter clothes according to age and gender (pictured bottom left).

40 Years of Co-education: A Dartmouth Community Conversation

January 15, 12:00 to 1:30 PM, **LOCATION CHANGE: Fahey First Floor

This year Dartmouth celebrates 40 years of co-education. Mark the occasion at DCAL by hearing from a panel of students who represent different curricular and co-curricular experiences, and follow up with a conversation across constituencies which addresses some of these questions:

- What are the some of the most important gendered issues on campus?
- How are we currently teaching about these issues?
- Where are the overlaps and where are the gaps?
- What are some of the best ways to teach about such issues, including experiential approaches both inside and outside of the classroom? Are we employing them?
- How can we collaborate across the curriculum and the co-curriculum to address such issues in a more proactive and thorough-going way?
- How can students, faculty, and staff take leadership in their respective ways, including through the upcoming spring “Mentoring, Gender, and Social Justice” project?

Participation is limited to 30 people so sign up soon by visiting http://www.dartmouth.edu/~dcal/about/contact.html

OPASA launches new advising website

The Office of Pan Asian Student Advising (OPASA) launched its new website just in time for the start of the term! The website includes information about the Pan Asian Community (PAC) and links to the PAC facebook page. The website also includes information about various OPASA programs, a calendar of PAC events, and an option to subscribe to their blitz list.

For more information, visit the page: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~opasa/
Word with this week’s OPAL Intern Extraordinaire

Name: Ayda Ramadan
Year: 2013
Hometown: Seattle
Major: Studio Art
Role in OPAL: Pan Asian Community Intern

1. The inside scoop: What’s your favorite campus secret?
My favorite (off)campus spot is the Hanover Library. It's really beautiful and quiet. I love libraries, and browsing the aisles of books is so relaxing. It’s a good place to study during finals, and definitely off the beaten path.

2. What has been your favorite class at Dartmouth and why?
Modern Architecture, which I took over my sophomore summer with Professor Marlene Heck. Aside from being a fabulous lecturer, she has so much knowledge and is truly passionate about her subject. After taking that class, I saw buildings in a whole different way, and could identify different types of buildings, their styles, and time periods of architecture.

3. What has been a formative Dartmouth Experience for you?
My most formative Dartmouth experience was studying abroad in India. I had plenty of misconceptions of India (I had seen too many Bollywood films) and I was excited to see South Asia, a quickly developing part of the world. I learned so much about the rich cultural history of India and especially Hyderabad, the city I was in, with some time to explore the Taj Mahal, visit Goa, and meet locals too.

4. What advice do you have to ‘16s?
Prioritize! Try different things out, explore, but then figure out what you want to concentrate on and keep at it. Keep in mind what is most important (classes!) and then arrange your other tasks in order after that. So don’t be afraid to say no. It's necessary to turn things down sometimes or miss a social event (because there will always be another one), because you needed to prioritize the limited time you have.

5. What’s your role in OPAL? What do you want people to know about the work you do? What drives you to do the work you do?
I am a Pan Asian Community Intern, and work on events and programs to bring Pan Asian students closer together and address their needs on campus. The Asian community has so many different aspects, but so far this year we have aligned our programming with Dartmouth’s Year of the Arts, focusing on the arts in Asian America. Last term, me and my co-intern, Huan, redecorated and refreshed the Pan Asian Resource room in Robo 104. We’re really looking forward to it getting more use as a social and study space now that it's more inviting. I want people to know that if they have ideas or suggestions, to not be shy and feel free to suggest activities, conferences, social events, etc. We can find a way to make it happen and we are here as resources! I am driven to do the work I do because when I was a first year at Dartmouth, one of the communities that warmly welcomed me was the Asian community, and I felt I had found a place I belonged.

Interested in learning more or want to see your content included in the next newsletter?
Blitz Pluralism.and.Leadership.Office@dartmouth.edu or erin.e.klein.13@dartmouth.edu